

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

HOBSON, David L. (Republican)
Representative, 7th District, Ohio
Elected 1990 to 102nd Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Cincinnati, Ohio - 17 October 1936

Home: Springfield, Ohio

Marital status: Married (Carolyn) - 3 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Ohio Wesleyan Univ, BA, 1958; Ohio State College of Law, JD, 1963

Military: Air National Guard, 1958-63

Profession: Financial corporation executive

Political: Ohio Senate, 1983-90, president pro tem in 1988-90. Succeeded Rep Mike DeWine (R), who ran successfully for LtGov. Defeated Jack Schira (D), a retired Air Force colonel, with 62% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 68% of the vote and in 2002 with 68%.

Rep Hobson is described as a conservative, pragmatic lawmaker with close links to the GOP leadership. In the 103d Congress, protested the cost involved in moving the Springfield, OH ANG unit to WPAFB, questioned why upgrades to the AFIT research labs kept slipping, and wrote the Pentagon IG questioning Air Force assurances on the safety of fuel systems on MH-53 helicopters (AF had awarded fuel systems contract to foreign firm instead of Dash Engineering, a firm in Hobson's district). In the 104th Congress suggested moving the Joint Advanced Strike Technology programming office from Arlington, VA to WPAFB, OH. In the 105th Congress, voiced concern about low pay for military. In February 1998 expressed support for funds in the AF's FY99 budget for the Doolittle Acquisition Management Complex at WPAFB, suggesting that such upgrades helped solidify the facility as a "receptor base" in future BRAC rounds. Cosponsored bill to establish two new positions within the AF - ASAF (Science & Technology) and DCS (Sci & Tech) designed to help reinvigorate AF science & technology functions. In the 106th Congress, became chairman of the HAC MILCON Subc and left Budget Cmte. Criticized the FY00 PB for inadequate funding of defense, citing the need for more dollars to address housing and real property maintenance backlogs. Supported additional funds for science and technology research efforts at WPAFB. Suggested the AF was being short-sighted in letting space-related research deplete its talent pools in other areas. Supports the F-22, which is managed at WPAFB. Sharply criticized the services for diverting funds from O&M for other purposes and thus causing spare parts shortages and maintenance backlogs. In Dec99 joined two other members in calling for a complete review of military aviation safety, stating that he would like to see an NTSB-like investigative panel independent of the military.

During the 107th Congress, complained that part-time reservists are being turned into "full-time soldiers and airmen." Said this is hurting the moral of the reserves and stunting support by family and employers. Requested and received 3 AF projects in the Defense bill worth \$12 million. Expressed disappointment that the President and the Air Force have asked for less MICON dollars.

In the 108th Congress, picked up Rickenbacker ANGB. Gave up his post as chairman of the MILCON subcommittee to be chmn of the Energy/Water subcmt. Expressed concern that the Air Force was eliminating civilian jobs at the their bases because they underestimated the cost of employee health care. Member of the first CODEL to visit Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

AF Bases: Wright-Patterson AFB (WPAFB); Springfield MAP (ANG); Rickenbacker (ANGB)

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense; VA/HUD; Energy/Water – Chmn;